

Canine Influenza in North Carolina Updates

July 14 2015 4:00 PM – A third Asheville area veterinary hospital (Hospital C) has contacted AWS concerning possible canine influenza cases. This hospital has seen five cases within the past week. All five are being treated as presumptive cases of canine influenza. None of the owners of the animals have agreed to laboratory testing to confirm the diagnosis or identify the strain of the virus. One dog developed radiographic signs of pneumonia. All dogs are responding well to treatment.

July 14, 2015 8:00 AM - A second veterinary hospital (Hospital B) has contacted AWS concerning canine influenza cases. Hospital B saw the first case on July 7th. This puppy was tested for canine influenza and laboratory tests confirm the presence of the H3N2 strain of canine influenza. Hospital B has seen approximately 14 additional cases in the past week with signs consistent with canine influenza but no other patients were tested for confirmation of the disease. To date all of the treated patients are recovering and there have been no fatalities reported.

July 13, 2015 10:00 PM – There has been a news report of a canine influenza cases in the Asheville area. To date only one veterinary hospital (Hospital A) has reported to the Animal Welfare Section (“AWS”) of the N. C. Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services the treatment of a patient for a confirmed case canine influenza. The veterinary hospital has examined 2 dogs with signs consistent with canine influenza and one of those patients was tested for the disease. The laboratory test for this patient was positive for Type A canine influenza. The test which differentiates the particular strain of influenza is pending. There are two strains of Type A canine influenza: H3N8 which has been present in the US since 2004 and H3N2 which appeared in the US in 2015. Once the results of the strain for this patient are known to AWS this website will be updated.

Canine influenza is not a reportable disease. Veterinarians are not required to report this disease though veterinarians are encouraged to report cases to AWS so the Section can monitor the situation. The current CDC recommendations and AVMA FAQ and Canine Influenza Fact sheet as well as other reputable sources of information about this disease can be found on this website under the “Canine Influenza Information.”